



Potters Bar U. D. C.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

1968

POTTERS BAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. I. OUTRAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

for the Year 1968

together with

THE REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(J. H. Rooley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

Public Health & Housing Department,

Wylllyotts Manor,

Darkes Lane,

Potters Bar,

Hertfordshire.

1st September, 1969.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Potters Bar Urban District Council

Madam Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of Potters Bar for the year 1968. It has been compiled in accordance with the provisions of Circular 1/69 received from the Ministry of Health.

Statistics relating to the social conditions of the district are given on pages 3 and 4 and it will be seen that the number of births has decreased and the number of deaths increased. The birth rate (13.5) is the lowest recorded for the district in post-war years and is below that for the country as a whole (16.9). The death rate is the highest recorded in post-war years (11.3) but still below that for the country (11.9). The infantile mortality rate also shows a slight increase and is higher than that for the last two years but is still below the national rate.

The details of the deaths in the district are represented rather differently from the details given in previous years owing to a change in the grouping of classifications issued by the Registrar General but once again heart diseases and cancer were the main causes.

In 1968 new regulations relating to notifiable diseases were issued under the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968. Fees payable to medical practitioners for notification of these diseases have been increased and a few changes have been made in the diseases which are to be regarded as notifiable. The number of these diseases notified during 1968

(shown on pages 12-14) is low (89 as against 191 in 1967) and the number of measles cases (54) was the lowest for some years. Three of the cases of food poisoning were in one family who had returned from a holiday abroad and there was little doubt that the infection occurred before they returned to this country. There was a slight increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the end of the year but I attach little significance to this.

In February arrangements were made for the Mass Radiography Unit of the North West Regional Hospital Board to visit the district and it was stationed for varying periods at different sites in the district. In addition, several of the larger factories were visited. In all 2961 persons (1369 males and 1592 females) were X-rayed and of these 13 were referred for further investigation.

I would like to express my gratitude for the willing and able help I received from the members of the Public Health staff; especially to Mr. Rooley, Mr. Rixson and Mr. Orrigan for their unfailing assistance in all matters.

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

M.I. OUTRAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE AREA

Area	6,129 acres
Population (mid 1968 - Registrar General's Estimate)	25,170
Number of rated domestic premises (1st April, 1968)	8,116
Rateable Value (1st April, 1968)	£1,416,828
Product of a penny rate (year commencing 1st April, 1968)	£5,810

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	339
Live birth-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population	13.5
Live birth-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population ..	13.5
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	16.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.0
Still-births	4
Still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	12.0
Total live and still-births	343

Infant Mortality

Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	12
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	18
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	9.3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	58.8
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	8.9
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	12.4
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first week)	3.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	15.0

Deaths

Death-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population 10.7
Death-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population 11.3
Death-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales 11.9

Births

1968	Live Births			Still Births		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	154	168	322	2	2	4
Illegitimate	10	7	17	-	-	-
TOTALS	164	175	339	2	2	4

DEATHS - Causes

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	0	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus ..	19	1	20
Malignant neoplasm - breast	0	4	4
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	0	1	1
Leukaemia	1	0	1
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	15	8	23
Diabetes mellitus	0	3	3
Anaemias	1	0	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	3	5
Hypertensive disease	1	0	1
Ischaemic heart disease	37	26	63
Other forms of heart disease	6	4	10
Cerebrovascular disease	17	27	44
Other diseases of circulatory system ..	5	6	11
Influenza	3	3	6
Pneumonia	12	16	28
Bronchitis and emphysema	11	3	14
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	2	5
Peptic ulcer	2	1	3
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	0	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	0	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	0	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ..	1	0	1
Other complications of pregnancy, etc. ..	0	1	1
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality ..	0	1	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions ..	0	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	2	3	5
All other accidents	1	0	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ..	1	1	2
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Totals	145	125	270
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The following tables show details of statistics for the years since 1941.

1. POPULATION, RATEABLE VALUE, etc.

Year	Number of Rated Domestic Premises	Rateable Value of District at 1st April	Population (mid-year)
		£	
1921 (Census)	-	-	3135
1931 (Census)	-	-	5720
1941	4429	150,369	14850
1951	5074	169,444	16800 (Estimate) 17163 (Census)
1952	5149	171,671	16970
1953	5247	174,831	17210
1954	5286	180,300	17620
1955	5485	187,121	17790
1956	5700	193,264	18910
1957	6400	332,572	20370
1958	6970	346,170	22000
1959	7219	366,460	22750
1960	7300	389,254	23140
1961	7500	405,349	23080 (Estimate) 23360 (Census)
1962	7559	422,417	23530
1963	7637	1,229,341 *	23870
1964	7685	1,253,012	24120
1965	7832	1,296,030	24440
1966	7960	1,319,657	24650
1967	8037	1,350,224	24730
1968	8116	1,416,828	25170

* New Valuation List came into force 1st April, 1963.

2. DEATH RATE, BIRTH RATE, etc. (unadjusted)

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1941	+	+	+
1942	9.9	17.1	23.9
1943	9.7	17.4	16.1
1944	8.9	20.6	30.8
1945	10.4	15.4	36.4
1946	8.7	18.4	14.1
1947	8.9	19.0	32.6
1948	7.8	17.7	6.9
1949	7.8	15.3	15.9
1950	8.4	15.2	19.8
1951	9.8	14.6	24.5
1952	8.9	13.8	21.3
1953	8.3	14.2	16.4
1954	7.4	14.0	12.1
1955	8.0	13.6	8.3
1956	9.2	15.7	27.0
1957	8.5	15.5	15.8
1958	7.7	18.1	10.1
1959	8.8	16.0	19.3
1960	8.1	17.1	20.2
1961	7.2	17.0	10.2
1962	8.4	16.7	10.2
1963	8.8	17.0	12.3
1964	8.7	19.0	19.6
1965	8.8	16.2	17.7
1966	8.7	16.3	7.5
1967	9.4	15.8	8.0
1968	10.7	13.5	12.0

+ Figures not available

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

The Council's Public Health and Housing Committee deals with all the functions of the Department. A Sub-Committee of the Public Health and Housing Committee deals with Home Safety.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

M.I. OUTRAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector & Housing Manager:
Inspector under the Petroleum Acts & Shops Act:

*J.H. ROOLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

*R.W. RIXSON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

F.J. ORRIGAN, Cert. S.I.B.

Rodent Operator:

G.S. MARTIN

* In addition to the basic qualification and diploma for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, these officers hold the diploma of the Royal Society of Health in "Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works".

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The laboratory work of the Council was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Public Health Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

The specimens submitted by the Public Health Department were:-

Tomato ketchup	..	..	..	..	..	1
Salad cream	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ice-Cream Samples	..	..	..	..	..	31
Stools	..	..	..	..	..	28
Swimming pool water	..	..	..	..	..	8

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is operated by the Hertfordshire County Council and vehicles are kept at various stations throughout the County. Since the transfer of Potters Bar into Hertfordshire ambulances have operated from the Fire and Ambulance Station, Mutton Lane.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There is a domiciliary service of midwifery and general nursing in operation in the district provided by the Divisional Health Committee.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

There are two clinics - one at The Elms, High Street, Potters Bar, and one at the Welfare Centre, Mutton Lane. Both these centres are under the control of the Divisional Health Committee and give facilities for ante-natal, maternity and child welfare, dental and chiropody services.

HOSPITALS

There are two hospitals within the district - Potters Bar and District Hospital, Mutton Lane, and the Clare Hall Hospital at South Mimms. They are controlled by the Barnet Group Hospital Management Committee.

The cases of infectious disease which require removal to hospital are normally sent to Coppett's Wood Hospital.

The Chest Clinic for the Potters Bar area is held at Clare Hall.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The District is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company and all houses have a mains supply. During the year 470 samples representative of supply were taken for bacteriological examination, and 9 samples for chemical analysis.

All conformed to standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

The water supply is not plumbo-solvent.

The natural fluoride content of the water supply is less than 0.2 p.p.m.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

On the sewerage system and sewage disposal the Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows:-

"The major scheme to deal with the surface water problem in the area between Darkes Lane and the High Street and to cater for the considerable office development, has been completed.

Minor schemes to improve both soil and surface water drainage have been carried out, and a further one, namely, in Strafford Gate, has commenced.

The investigation into the problem of infiltration of surface water into soil sewers has continued, and discussions are taking place with officers of and consultants to the West Hertfordshire Main Drainage Authority, who are considering the effect this will have on a scheme of duplication of their trunk sewers. This problem, which only occurs for relatively short periods in time of heavy rain, does affect small groups of low lying properties in various parts of the Urban District.

Apart from this problem the arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the District can be considered satisfactory."

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Engineer and Surveyor of the Council reports:-

"Street cleansing, mainly by machine, has continued satisfactorily, with no major changes during the year.

Gully cleansing is satisfactorily carried out by contract.

Messrs. D. Heath & Sons' contract for collection of domestic and trade refuse ends on the 31st March, 1969, and during the year the Council has considered problems relating to the carrying out of this work by direct labour. A scheme has been approved and arrangements are in hand for the direct labour scheme to operate from the 1st April, 1969.

Refuse disposal by controlled tipping in accordance with the terms of the contract with the St. Albans Sand and Gravel Company, continues to be satisfactory."

SWIMMING POOL

The construction of the new public swimming pool was completed in 1968 and opened to the public on 6th May, 1968. Samples of the pool water are regularly taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Watford, for bacteriological examination. During the remainder of 1968 8 such samples were taken, and all were found to be of a satisfactory bacteriological standard.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

In accordance with Section 153(1) of the Factories Act, 1961, particulars of factories and action taken under the Act are shown as an appendix to this report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

(a) Removal to Hospital

In certain circumstances under Section 47 of this Act, the Medical Officer of Health may arrange the compulsory removal to hospital of aged or infirm persons who are not receiving proper care and attention. During 1968 it was not necessary to use these powers.

(b) Burial of the Dead

Under Section 50 of the Act, it is the responsibility of the District Council to arrange the burial or cremation of all persons who die in the district for whom no suitable arrangements otherwise would be made. No occasions arose during 1968 when it was necessary to use these powers.

SECTION D - Housing

(See page 18 of the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.)

SECTION E - Inspection and Supervision of Food

(See page 20 of the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.)

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS

AND OTHER DISEASES

The notifiable diseases other than tuberculosis during the year, 1968 were:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	54	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Whooping Cough	27	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	-
Totals	89	-	-

The following figures show notifications of certain infectious diseases since 1941:-

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
1941	23	4	0	271	137
1942	53	4	3	194	132
1943	35	0	0	280	51
1944	10	0	0	23	76
1945	14	0	0	287	22
1946	36	1	8	104	44
1947	11	0	3	51	58
1948	17	0	1	108	57
1949	11	0	1	278	43
1950	44	0	8	306	144
1951	15	0	3	179	67
1952	17	0	1	164	21
1953	22	0	1	381	142
1954	23	0	0	8	35
1955	4	0	1	537	9
1956	2	0	1	30	25
1957	6	0	0	301	16
1958	11	0	1	20	6
1959	5	0	1	698	9
1960	1	0	1	16	77
1961	0	0	2	440	3
1962	4	0	0	36	2
1963	4	0	0	413	21
1964	2	0	0	27	34
1965	2	0	0	332	3
1966	1	0	0	217	11
1967	4	0	0	177	9
1968	4	0	0	54	27

Immunisation

This service is carried out by the Divisional Medical Officer and he has kindly supplied the following schedule of the number of children in Potters Bar who received the various forms of immunisation during 1968.

	Triple	Diphtheria/ Tetanus	Tetanus	Polio	Small- pox	Measles single dose
Primary	346	41	17	403	291	655
Booster Doses	297	380	27	678	Re-vac 30	

Tuberculosis - 1968

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1-5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals 1968	4	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
Totals 1967	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

The numbers of persons on the tuberculosis register at the commencement and end of the year are shown in the following table, as the foregoing gives no indication of inward and outward transfers, or of persons cured.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Total on register at commencement of year	34	26	60	1	3	4	64
Total on register at end of year	35	25	60	1	5	6	66

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Madam Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

The following pages contain my report for the year 1968.

In my report last year I referred to the increase in rodent infestation in Hertfordshire (including Potters Bar). Details shown later in this report indicate that in 1968 there was a considerable reduction in the number of infestations and it may well be that the introduction of a contract service for agricultural premises was in some way responsible for an improvement in the district as a whole. The occupiers of eleven farms took advantage of the facilities offered and these contracts yielded an additional income of £102. 10. Od.

The only new legislation, in addition to that mentioned by the Medical Officer of Health, which had any great impact on the department was the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1968 which replaced similar regulations of 1937 and 1948. One of the reasons for the introduction of the new regulations was the changing pattern of modern transport arrangements and the subsequent effect on the inspection of imported food. Up to the time of the new regulations, inspection of imported foods mainly took place at the port of entry and was the responsibility of port health authorities. The rapid development of the use of large sealed containers for the transport of food-stuff into Britain in bulk gave rise to a need to reconsider inspection arrangements. These large containers, in some circumstances, are allowed to pass through ports unopened until they reach their destination at inland container terminals where the containers are opened and contents are broken down for distribution to individual merchants. The new regulations provide for the inspection of imported food transported by container by inland public health authorities at the terminal depots. One such depot is established in Potters Bar and since the operation of the new regulations several inspections of bulk food-stuffs have been carried out.

The service to occupiers of dwelling houses on a rechargeable basis, in connection with choked drainage systems, continued to operate and is being increasingly used and appreciated by householders. Eighty-one systems were dealt with compared with 53 in 1967 and the income from the scheme increased from £117. to £186. Unfortunately, in many cases, the need for this service arises at weekends but with the co-operation of the Surveyor's maintenance staff any emergency is usually dealt with promptly.

No applications for improvement grants were received during 1968 and while from one point of view this may be disappointing, I think that the publicity given to the provisions of the new Housing Act (not yet in operation) under which the amounts of grant are to be much more generous, has encouraged owners to delay making applications until the new provisions are known. In one case during the year statutory action was commenced in respect of a dwelling house, the tenant of which had submitted an official representation under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964, requesting the Council to secure standard improvements to the house.

In my comments on the administration of the Petroleum Act on page 32 I refer to the new Model Codes issued by the Home Office. Members of the Council are already aware that these are considerably more detailed and complicated than those previously in use and after consideration of their provisions it was decided to reappraise the department's administration of the legislation associated with the storage of petroleum spirit, mixtures, etc. This resulted in a considerable increase in the administrative work necessary, e.g. in the preparation of new licence forms, etc. and it is apparent that much more time will have to be devoted to this subject in future years.

Progress on smoke control followed the programme previously agreed by the Council and in the summer of 1968 a survey of the proposed area No.3 was carried out. This area is immediately to the north of area No.2 and is 171 acres. It contains 1242 buildings and will become operative on the 1st October, 1969.

The usual routine work needed for the administration of the various acts and regulations which apply to food establishments, factories, offices, shops, etc. continued throughout the year but because of additional attention given to specific aspects of the work of the department, e.g. petroleum, smoke control, etc. the routine duties suffered to some extent. Members will appreciate that the range of functions of the department is very wide and it necessarily follows that according to varying circumstances the priorities given to the different duties change from time to time. Unfortunately, too, more and more time seems to be required for administration, including the study of new legislation and the multitude of resulting circulars, practice notes, etc. issued by the various Ministries.

For the first time for several years the department was fortunate in that no changes of staff occurred and all members of the department have worked well and given excellent service.

Your obedient servant

J.H. ROOLEY

Chief Public Health Inspector

HOUSING

Good housing conditions are essential to the health and welfare of every family and the attainment of this standard is one of the most important and rewarding of the department's functions. These duties involve the repair of unfit houses which are capable of repair at a reasonable cost; the demolition or closure of those houses which are unfit and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost; and the improvement, by means of improvement grants, of those houses which, although sound in structure, are lacking in modern amenities such as bathroom, internal w.c., domestic hot water supply, a wash basin and proper facilities for the storage of food.

Throughout the years much has been achieved by the demolition of most of the really bad properties and their replacement by houses conforming to modern standards, by the repair of those houses considered suitable for repair at a reasonable cost, and by a limited number of improvement grants. Today, therefore, although a few unfit properties remain and some are still without modern amenities, the standard of housing accommodation in the urban district can be regarded as good and no longer a serious problem.

Slum Clearance

No houses were represented to the Council as unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost. Two dwelling houses which were included in the Council's slum clearance programme but had been empty for a considerable time were demolished voluntarily by the owners.

Repair

In a district where the standard of housing accommodation generally is good and where a very high percentage of the houses are owner/occupied, it is not surprising that the duty of enforcing the repair of dwelling houses under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1957 and the Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961 is no longer one of the major functions of the department. During the year only 14 primary inspections under the Public Health or Housing Acts were carried out as a result of complaints received. These figures do not include those

dwelling houses dealt with for choked drainage only. These are included in another part of the report.

In 1968 defects at 12 dwelling houses were remedied after formal or informal action.

Improvement Grants

There were no applications for standard or discretionary improvement grants during the year. Representations under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964 were made to the Council by the tenant of one dwelling house. A scheme of improvement subsequently was prepared and informal negotiations were entered into with the owner of the property, but at the end of the year the matter was not resolved.

The scheme of improvement for 16 Council owned houses in Park Avenue costing £20,000. was completed in 1968. All Council owned dwelling houses now have been brought up to a reasonable modern standard of amenity.

Certificates of Disrepair

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

Housing Management

The Public Health and Housing Department is a dual department in that it deals with all public health functions of the Council and also those of housing management.

The management of Council houses is not a subject required by the Ministry to be dealt with in the Annual Report, but given below is a brief summary of the main items affecting the year under review. It is not intended to be a comprehensive report on all details of housing management which are dealt with in the department.

In February, 1968, the first houses on the Mutton Lane estate were completed and by the end of the year 98 dwellings were occupied. Most of these houses were provided with integral garages but a few had the use of separate lock-up garages.

Additional garage accommodation also was provided on the Dugdale Hill Estate by erecting separate garages in gardens where space and levels permitted. Thirty-one units were built.

The improvement works at the pre-war houses in Park Avenue were completed during 1968 and it can now be said that all the Council's pre-war houses have been brought up to a reasonably modern standard of amenity.

In all, during the year, 257 lettings were made and this is the highest number ever recorded in any one year. This figure included the allocation of properties to 145 families from the waiting list and 112 transfers were effected.

The numbers of applicants on the waiting lists at the end of the year were:-

General waiting list	308
Aged persons' list	81
Single persons' list	25
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Total	414
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There were also 40 deferred applications.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

As usual a considerable amount of the public health inspectors' time was devoted to the unspectacular but nevertheless important duty of ensuring, as far as practicable, the cleanliness and safety of the food supplies. This work not only entailed the inspection of food and all the various types of food premises and vehicles, but "on the spot" education and advice to food handlers and management on the subject of food hygiene.

213 inspections and other visits were made to the various food premises, vehicles, etc. in which food was prepared, stored or sold. 21 informal notices under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960 were served, and 28 informal notices were complied with during the year.

The tables that follow show at the 31st December, 1968 the principal food trades in the district, and the number registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Catering Establishments

(a) Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
(b) School Meals Centres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
(c) Works Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
(d) Hospital and Institution Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Milk Distribution Depots	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Sweet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18

Ice-cream:-

Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Vendors only (Registered)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37

Number of food premises, by type, registered under

Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Storage, sale or manufacture of ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Manufacture of sausages	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Boiling of hams	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cooking of poultry	4
Frying of fish	4
Pickling of pork and beef	1
Preserved foods	1
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Certificates of Exemption

No Certificates of Exemption under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960 were issued during the year.

Ice-cream

Most of the ice-cream retailed within the district was obtained from large scale manufacturers outside the district, and as usual there were a few itinerant traders selling in the district from premises outside.

One new application for registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice-cream was received, and at the end of the year there were 37 premises registered.

During 1968, 31 samples of ice-cream were obtained and subjected to the methylene blue test at the Public Health Laboratory, Watford. The results were as follows:-

<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	
<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
26	5	0	0

Milk Supply - Brucella abortus

As a result of a report from the County Public Health Department that a brucellosis positive milk sample had been taken from a dairy farm in Potters Bar, an investigation was carried out at the farm in question. The purpose of the investigation was to make sure that all the milk produced was satisfactorily treated before distribution to the public. It was found that the majority of the milk supply was purchased in bulk by one of the large dairy companies where it was pasteurised and rendered safe. A small quantity of untreated farm bottled milk, however, was distributed daily to a Kosher retailer in North London. With the full co-operation of the farmer arrangements were made for all further supplies of milk produced at this farm to be collected by the dairy company for pasteurisation.

Food Poisoning

Four cases of food poisoning were notified during 1968 and a fifth was otherwise discovered, and all were found to be

due to the well-known salmonella typhi-murium. Two of the cases were "sporadic" cases and the causes of infection were not established. The other three cases were members of one family who were taken ill shortly before returning home from a holiday in Majorca.

Inspection and sampling of food

During the year 5 food complaints were received from members of the public and investigated by the department. Three of the complaints were in respect of milk bottles which were either chipped or dirty on the outside, one of a milk bottle dirty on the inside, and one of alleged unsoundness of pre-packed meat purchased two days before the complaint was made. The milk bottle containing dirt on the inside was referred to an adjoining Local Authority in whose area the milk was bottled. No formal action was necessary in respect of the other complaints.

Several other food complaints concerning foreign matter in food were referred directly to the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority.

The quantity of food which was examined and found unfit for human consumption and subsequently surrendered and destroyed was:

Unsound Food - 1968

	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Fresh meat		2	12
Cooked meat		13	12
Canned meat	1	3	-
Other canned foods	1	63	8
Fresh fish		49	-
Frozen foods	1	45	-
	<hr/>		
	4 cwts. 65lbs. 0 ozs.		
	<hr/>		

All condemned food was disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tips.

In addition to the investigation by the County of

specific complaints concerning the sale of food not of the nature substance or quality demanded by the purchaser, the routine sampling of food for adulteration, etc. was carried out by the Public Control Department of the Hertfordshire County Council. Mr. E.A. Nisbet, Chief Officer of that department has kindly supplied the following information concerning samples taken in Potters Bar during the year ended 31st December, 1968:-

Pickled Beet	Double Cream Cheese in Oatmeal
Pure Dairy Butter	Creamed Horse Radish
Golden Syrup Jelly	Orange Drink
Mushrooms with Chunky Ham	Low Calorie Jaffa Lemon
Pure Jersey Cream	Raspberry Jam
Canadian Apple Sauce	Real Mayonnaise
Fruit Cocktail	Tomato Juice
Bacon Grill	Instant Low Fat Skimmed Milk
Raviole & Tomato Sauce	Raspberry Jam
Jaffa Orange Juice	Plum Jam
Margarine with 10% Butter	Mincemeat

Milks - 5

All were found to be genuine.

Complaints

- Corned Beef - Foreign Body in tin delivered to Oakmere Primary School, Chace Avenue. Fragment of metal $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Letter of Caution to Wholesalers - Clerk of County Council 6th May, 1968.
- Farex - Contained living insect larva (Varied Carpet Beetle) could have originated after sale. - No further action.
- Milk - Foreign body in bottle found to consist of globules of fat containing particles of atmospheric dust - no action.

Slaughterhouses

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the district.

PEST CONTROL

The destruction of rats and mice is the most important of the department's functions in the field of pest control. For this purpose the Council employ a rodent operator and his services are available to occupiers of buildings and land on a rechargeable basis. In the case of dwelling houses, however, a nominal charge of 2/6d is made.

Certain other pests of public health significance are dealt with from time to time and in particular large numbers of wasps nests are destroyed annually.

Advice on the eradication of farm pests such as rabbits, squirrels, certain birds, etc. can be obtained from the Regional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Rats and Mice

In the year under review 163 notifications of rats and/or mice were received and investigated compared with 227 during 1967. The number of primary surveys carried out as a routine measure or associated with notifications was 206 compared with 327 in 1967, and the total number of treatments was 146 compared with 213 last year.

The Council's contract service to occupiers of agricultural land came into operation on the 1st April, 1968, and for the year under review the occupiers of 11 farms participated in the scheme. These farms were regularly inspected and treated when necessary.

As in previous years, the methods of eradication employed were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The types of infestation encountered followed the usual pattern - gardens, yards and outbuildings attached to dwelling houses predominating.

Below is a summary of the work carried out by the department during 1968:-

Number of primary surveys carried out

by (a) notification	163)	206
(b) otherwise	43)	

Total number of visits made in connection with Rodent Control	985
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Number of separate treatments carried out

	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) by Local Authority	128	18	146
(b) by Occupiers	-	-	-
	<hr/> 128	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 146

Number of cases where no infestation was found ..	60
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The details that follow show the types of infestation dealt with by Local Authority:-

	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dwelling houses	7	8	15
Gardens and Yards (including outbuildings)	90	1	91
Sewers and drains	-	-	-
Agricultural Property	17	1	18
Schools (including Meals Centres) ..	2	1	3
Shop Premises	6	1	7
Building Sites	2	-	2
Other Premises	4	6	10
	<hr/> 128	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 146

Details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:-

Number of informal notices served in respect of

(a) treatment	18)	18
(b) structural work (proofing)	-)	

Number of statutory notices served	-
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Legal proceedings instituted	-
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Premises rat-proofed	-
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Other Pests

The work carried out by the department in connection with the eradication of insect pests, other than wasps, was confined almost entirely to advisory measures.

Wasps' nests were treated by the department at 66 premises and advice was offered in many other cases.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Urban District is not within an area defined as a "black area", and it has no industrial smoke problem. It has, however, the usual problem from dwelling houses.

Clean Air Act, 1956

(a) Smoke Control Areas

A further stage in the Council's programme of smoke control areas was reached in the Summer of 1968 when a survey of proposed Smoke Control Area No.3 was carried out by means of a postal questionnaire supplemented, where necessary, by personal inspection.

The area involved is immediately to the north of Area No.2 and is 171 acres in extent. It comprises 1 industrial building, 19 commercial premises, 1,211 dwelling houses and 11 other premises, a total of 1242 buildings.

In October, 1968 the Council made the Potters Bar Urban District No.3 Smoke Control Order, 1968, declaring the above area a smoke control area. This Order, which was confirmed by the Minister early in 1969, will become operative on the 1st October, 1969.

(b) Smoke Nuisances (Section 16)

Only infrequently is it found necessary to take any action in regard to smoke nuisances. Thirteen complaints concerning domestic and industrial bonfires were investigated during the year and were resolved satisfactorily without recourse to any statutory action.

(c) New Furnaces (Section 3)

All applications under Section 3(2) for the prior approval of new furnaces are dealt with jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself, but during the year no applications were received.

No notifications under Section 3(3) regarding the installation of new furnaces were received.

(d) Height of Chimneys (Section 10)

Plans of new buildings (other than dwellings, shops and offices) which indicate the proposed erection of a chimney, are examined jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself. During the year no such plans were received.

(e) National Survey of Air Pollution

In 1961, the Council agreed to a request by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research to co-operate in a national survey of atmospheric pollution, and for this purpose set up 2 air pollution measurement stations. These were established at Wyllyotts Manor and, in collaboration with the Education Office, at Mount Grace School.

At each of these sites apparatus is installed to measure the concentration of smoke and sulphur-dioxide in the atmosphere. Readings are taken daily and are sent for analysis to the Warren Springs Laboratory at Stevenage at the end of every 4 or 5-week period. Readings taken throughout the country are subsequently tabulated etc. and published monthly by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The main provisions of this Act came into operation on the 1st August, 1964. The purpose of the Act is to safeguard the health, welfare and safety of all persons employed in offices, shops and warehouses, railway premises, etc., thus extending to such workers similar working conditions to those afforded the industrial worker by the Factories Acts. Since the passing of the Act in 1963 the Minister has made several Orders and Regulations prescribing standards for such matters as sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, first aid facilities and dangerous machines.

The following information is taken from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Labour for the period ended 31st December, 1968:-

No. of registered premises:-

Offices	85
Retail shops	173
Wholesale shops, warehouses	7
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	23
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	288

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises:-

<u>Class of workplace</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	810
Retail shops	850
Wholesale departments, warehouses	122
Catering Establishments open to the public	185
Canteens	5
Fuel storage premises	-
Total	1972

Total males 952
" females 1020

No. of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises 179

Applications for exemptions:-

Space (Section 5 (2))	Nil
Temperature (Section 6)	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9)	Nil
Washing facilities (Section 10)	Nil
Prosecutions	Nil

Accidents

One minor accident was notified under Section 48 of the Act.

DRAINAGE

The Council's recently introduced scheme for assisting the owners and occupiers of certain premises (mainly dwelling houses) in the clearance of obstructed drainage systems under Section 22 of the Public Health Act, 1961, at a standard charge, was again in great demand.

During the year 78 choked drainage systems involving 164 premises were dealt with by the department, and at three premises the drainage systems were repaired, re-constructed or enlarged. Charges totalling £186 were made in respect of the clearance of private drainage systems other than public sewers.

NOISE ABATEMENT

With the coming into operation of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, "noise or vibration which is a nuisance" can be dealt with as a statutory nuisance for the purposes of Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936. In the case of a nuisance of the kind produced in the course of a trade or business it is a defence for the defendant to prove that the best practicable means have been used for preventing, and for counteracting the effect of, the noise or vibration.

During the year only 4 complaints of noise were received and 22 visits were made to investigate them.

The complaints were in respect of noise from two factories, motor scooters and dogs barking.

Where necessary, informal action was sufficient to secure abatement of the nuisance.

MISCELLANEOUS

Caravan Sites

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act empowers a Local Authority to grant licences to the occupiers of caravan sites, and to control those sites from the point of view of public health and amenity by the imposition of conditions attached to the licence.

At the commencement of the year there were 4 caravan sites in the district, each with one caravan occupied. Three of the sites had current planning permission and site licences. During the year further temporary planning permission and a site licence were granted to the occupier of the fourth site.

At the end of the year, therefore, the position remained unchanged, but all four site occupiers were in possession of planning permission and site licences.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One factory in which the manufacture of soft furnishings is carried on is registered under the above Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three applications for licences to keep pet shops were received during the year, and at each shop conditions were found to be satisfactory and licences were issued.

Street Trading

No formal applications for street trading licences were received.

Shops Act, 1950

Inspection duties under the Shops Acts are usually combined with those under other headings carried out at shop premises, but many enquiries are dealt with usually in connection with hours of closing, Sunday Trading, etc.

Consumer Protection Act, 1961

This Act, which came into operation on the 19th August, 1961 repealed the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952. No action was needed during the year.

Riding Establishments Act, 1964

This Act, which came into operation on the 1st April, 1965, provides for the licensing of riding establishments by the local authority. A fee of £10 is payable and the licence remains in force for one year. In 1968 one application for a licence was received and granted.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

This Act, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, provides for the licensing of animal boarding establishments by local authorities. A licence fee of 10/-d. is payable and the licence remains in force for one year. No licences were issued in 1968.

Petroleum Acts and Regulations

The Council's various functions under the Acts and Regulations dealing with the storage of petroleum spirit, petroleum mixtures and other substances subject to licence control are also administered by the Public Health Department.

No new licences were issued during 1968 but one licence was transferred on a change of occupation of the premises.

At the time of installation, new storage tanks are subjected to an air pressure test and existing tanks are tested periodically in accordance with the terms of the particular licence (usually by ullage or nitrogen pressure tests). During the year several tanks were tested prior to the renewal of licences and because of failure or non-renewal of licences several tanks became disused. These were rendered safe either by filling with water as a temporary measure or by filling with concrete.

In August the Home Office issued the long awaited revised editions of the Model Codes applicable to the construction of petroleum installations and petroleum licence conditions. These are considerably more detailed than the previous codes and their administration will be much more complicated and time-consuming.

At the end of the year 21 licences were in force and these permitted a total storage capacity of 104,100 gallons.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Visits and Inspections made during the year

Visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts	583
Visits and inspections under the Housing Acts	28
Visits and inspections under the Food and Drugs Act	213
Visits and inspections under the Factories Act	25
Visits and inspections under the Petroleum Acts and Regulations	182
Visits and inspections under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	179
Shops Act visits and inspections	-
Visits and inspections re Infectious Diseases	62
Visits and inspections under the Rent Act	-
Visits and inspections re Rodent Control	
(by Public Health Inspectors)	77
(by Rodent Operator)	908
Administrative visits	99
Inspections under the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act	-
Visits under Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act	10
Visits under Pet Animals Act	11
Visits under Rag Flock Act	-
Visits under Clean Air Act	265
Visits under Herts. C.C. Act - Employment Agencies	5
Visits under Noise Abatement Act	22
Visits under Riding Establishments Act	4
Miscellaneous visits	278
Rehousing visits, etc.	10
Housing Management	163
Total	<u>3124</u>

Details of Formal and Informal Action

Number of premises etc. in respect of which informal notices were given	86
Number of premises etc. where improvements were effected following informal notices	71

Formal or Statutory Notices served :-

Housing Act, 1957

Sec. 170 - Requisition for information	1
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Housing Act, 1964

Sec. 19 - Representation by tenant	1
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Public Health Act, 1936

Sec. 93 - Abatement notice in respect of nuisance	1
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Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

Sec. 24 - First aid; general provisions	1
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Sec. 50 - Information for employees	1
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Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Reg. 23 - Cleanliness and repair, etc., of food rooms ..	1
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Legal proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961Part I1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	14	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	8	2	-	-
Total	89	16	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of clean- liness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

Part VIII

Outwork (Sections 133 & 134)

Making, Cleaning, Washing, etc. of										
Wearing Apparel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Making of Artificial Flowers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Making of Boxes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Typing labels	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

